

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA

June 30, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Edwin Parker, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Ben Babin, Jack Harris, James Little, Angela Machen, Richard St. Pierre, Larry Thomas, Don Thompson, Kenneth Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Felicia Lee

ALSO, PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston
Vacant Seat(s) St. Helena Parish

1. The Special Meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Parker.
2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
4. Comite River Diversion Canal Project – natural-gas replacement for 9 residents on East Irene Road in Zachary, Louisiana:

Due to the CRDC Project, utilities within the canal right-of-way are being relocated including some natural gas-lines. To run a gas-line under the canal the estimate is several hundred thousand dollars. Nine (9) homes on East Irene Road will lose their natural-gas to their homes very soon. Machen asked who is legally responsible. Bankston stated that in this case there is likely a compensability issue. The USACE is only willing to pay 43% of the cost to relocate the gas-line. The ARBC does not want the CRDC Project delayed over this issue. Little asked if this is something the ARBC can do legally. Bankston said the ARBC has the authority to act on this as it falls under contributing toward the local share. ARBC should only facilitate the residents with the cost but not in purchasing or installation of propane tanks. Bankston suggested the ARBC offer a set dollar amount to the residents to convert to propane with a limitation on the amount. Harris suggested offering a lump sum without the need for them to provide receipts etc. Bankston said he will prepare a document for release by tomorrow. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas second by Harris to approve, not to exceed \$27,000 total at \$3,000 per home for conversion from natural-gas to propane for 9 residents on East Irene Road.

5. The Board unanimously approved a motion by St. Pierre second by Harris to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Edwin Parker
Edwin Parker, ARBC President
Date: July 20, 2021

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau
Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary